

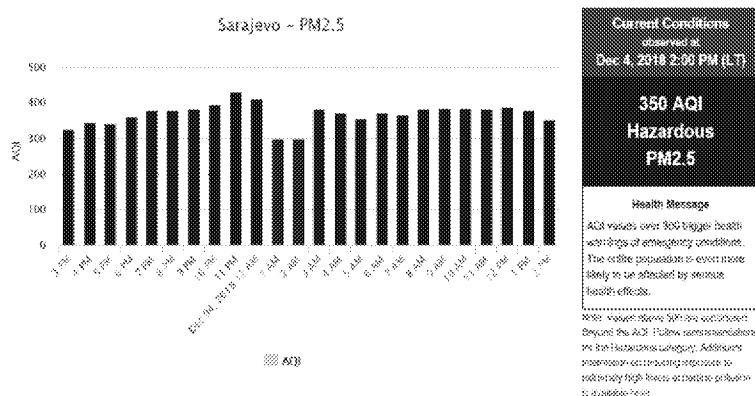
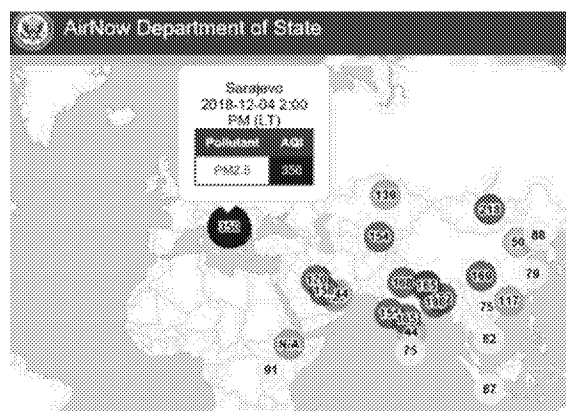
Air and Energy

Weekly Report Tuesday, December 4th, 2018

Important updates from the Air and Energy national research program to keep on your radar

Hot Issues/Major Decisions

Embassy Sarajevo PM Monitoring Project: To expand understanding of air quality in Sarajevo, ORD and OAR are assisting with the installation and evaluation of air pollution monitoring equipment for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) at the US Embassy to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In recent international estimates of air pollution-related impacts, BiH is characterized as having some of the worst air quality in Europe, especially in the winter months when meteorological conditions lead to inversions. Air quality conditions in Sarajevo have been very poor recently reaching the “hazardous” level using EPA’s Air Quality Index (AQI) on multiple days. Local media outlets are reporting Embassy Sarajevo’s air quality monitor readings and the Sarajevo Canton government is crediting the embassy data for informing the public about air quality conditions stating, “We have lost the battle to inform the public, and the US embassy did it and immediately awaken public awareness” (Google Translate). Our 1-year collaborative field study continues work begun by Beth Hassett-Sipple (A-E Science Associate) as an Embassy Science Fellow in Sarajevo during the fall/winter of 2017. Gayle Hagler and Bob Vanderpool (NERL) and Tim Hanley (OAR-OAQPS) are providing technical expertise to this project.



Upcoming Events

ECOS Webinar: In an effort to improve our understanding of states' research needs and priorities, ORD, including A-E, has been coordinating with ECOS/ERIS. On December 13, Alan Vette (Acting NPD) will provide a high-level overview of the draft A-E StRAP during a webinar for interested state staff.

A-E Connections: The [call](#) on December 5th has been rescheduled to December 12th. The Moment of Science entitled *Robust Decision-making Tools for Water Resources Decisions*, will be presented by Naomi Detenbeck (NHEERL).

Recent Highlights

Targeted Partner Discussions:

- On December 3, Alan Vette, Andy Miller (Associate Director for Climate), and Beth Hassett-Sipple met with staff from OAR-OAP's Clean Air Markets Division and Climate Change Division. The dialogue centered around OAP's near- and long-term research needs and updates on the current A-E StRAP development process and forthcoming opportunities for more technical discussions as we continue to engage with partners during implementation of our research plan. OAP expressed great appreciation for A-E communications and coordination and specifically highlighted the positive collaborations with researchers on a range of activities. In particular, OAP expressed strong support for continuing work to: improve our understanding of the relationships between atmospheric deposition, ambient concentrations, and ecosystem impacts; expand access to and analytical capabilities of the Critical Loads Mapper Tool; enhance characterization of temperature and wildland fires impacts on air quality and public health; and improve our understanding of methane emissions from reservoirs on a national scale.
- Also, on December 3, Beth Hassett-Sipple participated in the monthly Regional and OAR Air Division Directors (ADD) call. Mike Koerber (Deputy Office Director, OAR-OAQPS) briefly summarized a November 29th [public meeting](#) to provide updates on the agency's work to better understand air emissions of ethylene oxide from the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook, IL. EPA is addressing ethylene oxide based on the results of the latest [National Air Toxics Assessment \(2014 NATA\)](#), which identified the chemical as a potential concern in several areas across the country. A-E researcher, Tiffany Yelverton (NRMRL), is working with Region 5 in partnership with Region 6 on a 2019 RARE Project to advance analytical approaches for measuring ethylene oxide in ambient air. OAR and multiple regions are very interested in this project. Learn more [here](#).

November A-E STICS Items in Review: Click [here](#) for a list of A-E/ORD items that are planned to be published/presented in the near future.